Approved For Release 2000/05/3 P. STA-REP80R01443R000200170004-9 NSC BRIEFING 3 March 1954

THE EGYPTIAN SITUATION

I. Current Situation

Reconciliation Nagib and Nasr weak compromise inviting struggle and possible disintegration ruling Revolutionary Command Council.

- A. Authority Nasr and Council weakened by developments. Nasn determined crush Nagur
- B. Nasr lost face and possibly some of his nerve.
- C. During critical days he was described as "pathetically bewildered and frightened."
- D. Nagib basically weak, indecisive.

 Personality only asset. Character not

 strengthened by return.

E.

25X1X7

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- F. Unknown elements in army maneuvering for power.
- G. RCC has begun crackdown on unruly elements.

II. Anticipated Developments

- A. Future authority RCC could now be uncertain. Position weakened by:
 - Continuing intra-council maneuvering.
 - 2. Possible challenge from new military groups.
 - 3. Undefined role Nagib versus Nasr and RCC.
- B. Wafd, Moslem Brotherhood, Communists, other extremists, and old-line politicians may try establish relations with Nasr on Nagib or other army factions interested in power.
 - Both Brotherhood and Leftists appear involved return Nagib.

- C. Early return constitutional government remote despite public announcement.No progress economic development possible during confusion.
 - 1. No basis prepared.
 - 2. Council and Nagib too preoccupied.
- D. Prospects Suez settlement in state of suspense.
 - Increased influence extremists and uncertain internal security lessen hopes for settlement.

25X6A



4. Possibility sudden agreement remains should either Nagib or Nasr emerge as dominant figure and believe such agreement might be sold people.

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Approved For Release 2000/05/30: EACH FOR 01443R000200170004-9 E. Egypt's position and influence Sudan

adversely affected by Cairo developments.

- Nagib's 1 March visit Khartoum
 precipitated severe disorders when supporters Sudanese independence clashed with pro-Egyptian elements.
- 2. Earlier announcement Nagib's removal from office seriously disrupted pro-unionists.

III. Immediate Future

- A. Period of confusion, maneuvering, loss power by RCC likely promote more extremist military dictatorship.
- B. Extreme rightist anti-British sentiment likely to increase.
- C. Communism unlikely become significant; may attach itself to anti-British sentiment and rightist extremism.

THE EGYPTIAN SITUATION

BACKGROUND

Sudanese Disorders on 1 March

- 1. 1 March visit Nagib to Khartoum to attend opening first Sudanese parliament precipitated clash some 30,000 pro-independence and pro-Egyptian demonstrators and police resulting 20 deaths, including British police commissioner, and over 100 injured.
- 2. Opening parliament postponed until 10 March. Nagib requested leave Sudan "interests of public security."
- 3. Pro-independence Umma Party, headed by the Mahdi, defeated November elections by Egyptian-supported National Unionist Party favoring union Egypt.

- 4. Tribesmen Ansar sect, religious counterpart
 Umma and faithful followers Mahdi, appear in
 force in Khartoum shouting "Get out both
 British and Egyptians." Spear-bearing
 tribesmen charged police.
- 5. Violence followed wild demonstration 25
 February. Unionists on learning Nagib's
 removal when crowd shouted: "No union
 without Nagib."